Libary

vanguard

Vol. 1, No. 3 Peabody Veterans Memorial High School December, 1973



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EDITORIAL

Since Vanguard is in the business of publishing written material on paper, we are especially aware of the paper shortage that exists today. Many attempts are being made within the school to eliminate waste in using paper. However, poor judgment has been shown in two recent events involving the use of paper.

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The Peabody Fire Department has brought a sudden death to the recycling program planned for this school. The Fire Department determined that the method of operation used by the recycling program would be a safety hazard. Since the Fire Department has final say in matters concerning standards of safety, there is virtually no recourse to be taken.

It is not the final decision of the Fire Department that is lacking in judgment but their approach to the situation. If the program was set up conforming to their ideas, it would probably cost several thousands of dollars and require paid help, since the work could not possibly be done by volunteers.

The Fire Department's overview of the situation is simply unrealistic. They are fearful of cigarettes being thrown into barrels in areas of the school where the opportunity to smoke does not exist, such as classrooms.

Before the Fire Department killed this program, it was approved through all the necessary channels. The required materials had been purchased, and, with the Fire Department's approval, the program was ready to begin operation.

The fact that, in these times of acute shartages, the Fire Department merely outlined its own viewpoint, and made no attempt to help modify the current program so that it could meet their safety standards, shows a failure of their responsibility towards the students and the community.

* * * * * * * * *

The job of processing report cards has been transferred from a private company to the City of Peabody, which has its own data processing center. Amidst all the confusion, a special meeting was held for teachers for the purpose of informing the teachers of how to use the new system.

At this meeting, a seventeen page instruction booklet that was printed on school paper was distributed to every teacher. Unfortunately, roughly one-half of the booklet had nothing to do with the system planned for this school.

In the meantime, teachers' paper supplies have been cut back, and they have been told to be economical in their use of paper. It is no wonder that some teachers were upset when they saw paper being grossly misused when they can't obtain any paper for use in their classes.

If anything, paper should be conserved by the Administrtion in order to set an example for everyone else. There should be no double standards of paper usage for faculty members and those above them. The people whose salaries are paid by the taxpayers of the city should not be so eager to waste the taxpayers' money.

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letters to the editor

PARENTHOOD

The following letter is in response to a statement made in the last issue by the author of Sexism in Schools, which stated, "It is the true belief of many that women are suited only for 'easy' jobs, jobs which require little intelligence, or for the job of motherhood, which requires even less intelligence".

To the Editor:

It takes not only intelligence, but also constant use of that facility to acquire knowledge, in order to be a parent. The parent is the one most important influence a child has. There is not a subject offered in school that an individual should fail to master in order to be the parent each child deserves.

Shop and home ec prepare the person in practical aspects needed in the home--the home each child should have. PE and Health enable the parent to understand the physical development of the child. History and English help the adult to broaden the youngster's imagination and his understanding of people so necessary for his successful life.

Business subjects aid the parent in training a child to be successful in this industrial age.

Science and math allow the parent to broaden competency in fields he must introduce to the young mind.

Finally, the friendships that the individual begins in high school will lead to conversations and discussions with these friends throughout his life. These, in turn will continue the broadening of knowledge that is so important if a person is going to be intelligent enough to be a parent.

A member of the faculty

UNIT DIRECTORS

To the Editor:

This school is really messed up. If you were to skip a class, you would end up with a little slip given to you in homeroom the next day, summoning you to your friendly unit director's office. Chances are, you would end up with a detention or possibly suspension.

If you are late for school, according to the "new system" you are given a detention. If your note is legitimate, you can wait and see the unit director, as I did. I was the only person in the outer office; there was a student inside. During the course of time I was waiting, the unit director left his office three times to take a stroll. Finally, after 30 minutes or so, he asked if I was there to see him. I answered yes, and proceded into his empty office. In the office I received one note excusing me from detention. I had missed 45 minutes of valuable class time. If I had decided to skip the class, I would have been in trouble, but because I chose to waste it sitting in a room staring at the ceiling waiting for my unit director, it was ok.

There are times, believe it or not, that the unit director makes a mistake, forgetting that he excused a person from detention. This time, only 25 minutes of class time was wasted staring at the ceiling.

Unit directors are considered (or consider themselves) perfect, but as many of us know, they are only human and do make mistakes. For instance, when a call is made to your parents informing them that you skipped, when you didn't. This, of course, causes many problems upon your arrival home, due to your wonderful unit directors. When the unit directors see a person who looks like someone they are after, they immediately assume they are that person, so once again you make a trip up to the legalized skipping room.

Disgusted Student



cont. on page 5

RECYCLING HALTED

By order of the Peabody Fire Dept,, the ten barrel, infant paper recycling program that was to take place within Peabody High School has been cancelled. Money had been spent before the project was looked into by the Fire Dept., so that ten barrels are in the school building doing nothing more than collecting dust when they could have been collecting paper.

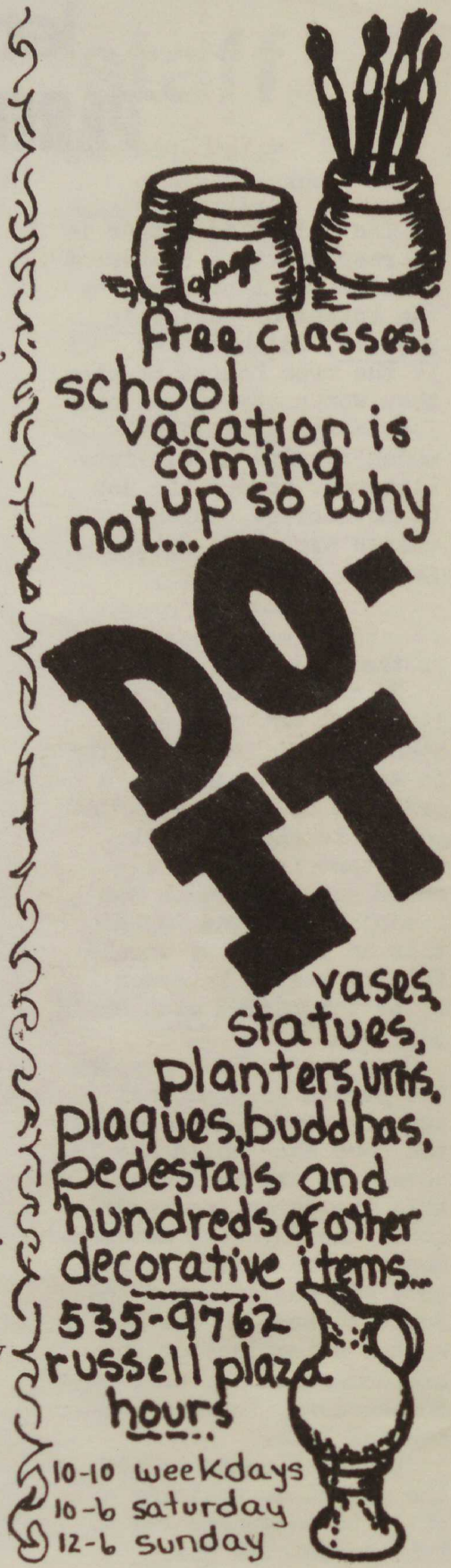
Deputy Fire Chief Russel of the Peabody Fire Department visited the high school last month, and looked over prospective barrel-sites and collecting areas with Steven Yaskell, president of the Ecology Club. Deputy Chief Russel decided that metal barrels should be used for the collecting instead of the purchased plastic ones, and that an expensive, hydraulic dumpster be used to store paper overnight. This would assure no accidents with fire.

These plastic barrels were intended for classroom to classroom paper collections, and the paper would be collected twice weekly, stored, and stacked out on a school loading dock. The Peabody Environmental Control Commission would be notified that night, where it would be promptly collected the following morning.

Paper is getting scarce, and considering that certain departments of the school consume great amounts of valuable, recyclable paper, it seems wasteful to just throw the paper away. The citizens of Peabody should remember that school paper is tax money. The fact that some of it might be saved becomes dissappointing when we see it being thrown out to a garbage dump.

Deputy Russel felt this ecology plan would be an enormous threat to school safety, listing possible occurances, such as: (1) Cigarettes being thrown into these plastic cans, where the cans would burst into flames, melt, and release nauseating odors; (2) Stored paper flaming as a result of cigarette butts being tossed into a room where paper might possibly have been stored (the garbage-can washroom). Deputy Russel, when reminded that teachers smoke in the teachers lounges, three rooms that are nearly filled with paper to the ceiling, stated that "special smoking areas are allowed on consent within public buildings."

The possible revival of this program might be discussed with the mayor.



Letters
continued

FREEDOM

To the Editor:

Many changes are needed in our school, including open campus for all, during studies. A school official has claimed that an open campus program is supposed to be enforced at PVMHS. Why were court yards built into this "beautiful" school? It is not because they are lovely and pretty to look at, but because the school was designed to use open campus. The question is,



are we capable of accepting this freedom? I think we are. Even though we have been told everything to do since first grade, a change has to be made; if not now, it will be in the very near future, when we are thrown into the world. Why doesn't the school educate us on how to accept this freedom, instead of letting the world teach us the hard way.

TANNERS

To the Editor:

Are student voices really heard? If they are, ther someone's been neglecting to listen in the case of changing the Peabody team's name, "The Tanners" to anything else suggested.

The majority of students at PVMHS are actually against changing the name, however, we obviously were not consulted on the decision made by the School Committee.

The major argument in favor of getting rid of the "Tanners" title seems to be the fact that Peabody is no longer a leather city, and thus the "Tanners" name has become outdated. However, the "Tanners" is no longer symbolic of the city's business; it is representative of the spirit of Peabody's students and athletes. Also, our sports teams have gained a solid, very respectable reputation under the "Tanners" title, and we aren't about to throw it all away by changing our name.

Listen to the "Tanners"







AN ANALYSIS OF ENER

"The use of solar energy has not been opened up because the oil industry does not own the sun."
Ralph Nader

A good many thoughtful Americans are saying privately that they hope the Arabs don't let the U.S. off the oil hook, at least not soon. For if they ease up soon, then the U.S. public may settle back and again luxuriate in the illusion of plentiful oil--until the next time the U.S. or its friends displease the Arab world.

The dreadful alternative is a more lopsided dependence on Arab oil.

It took a long time for the U.S. to become dependent. Getting self-sufficient won't be easy, cheap or fast. But it will be one of the smartest things this nation has ever done.

How did we get into this fix? It's a long story.

The Federal Government, way back in 1954, slapped on rock-bottom price limits on natural gas which assured low utility rates and run-away demand, while discouraging exploration for fresh supplies. Then, as oil became harder to find at home, domestic drilling skedded to a 21-year low in 1971.

"We are not going to ask everybody to heat their homes at 68 degrees . . ."
Peter Flanigan, Presidential energy adviser, Jan. 1973

"We must ask everyone to lower the thermostat in your home . . . to 68 degrees."
President Nixon, Nov. 1973

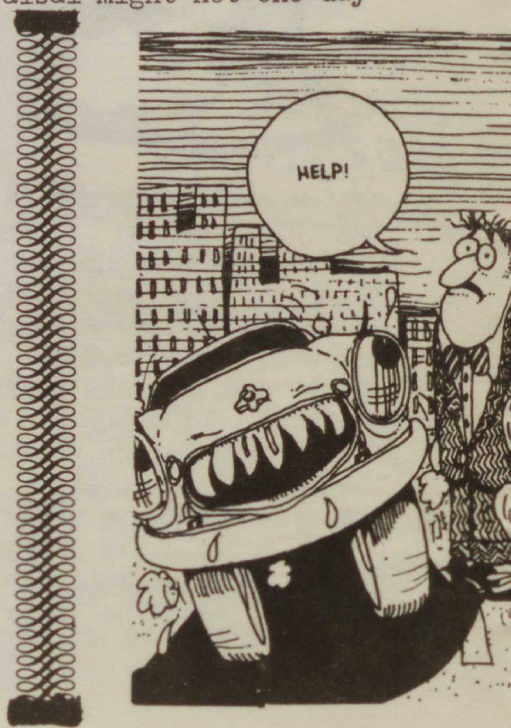
President Nixon says we can be self-sufficient by 1980. But achieving that goal depends on many things. Such as American willingness to spend at least $40 billion in tax money and business profits for research and development. A willingness to pay considerably higher prices to finance the horrendous costs of coal gasification, drilling on the continental shelf, and extracting oil from shale and tar sand. It also depends on a spirit of compromise on ecology and pollution.

At the same time, the Government retarded experimentation on synthetic fuels--such as gas from coal, oil from shale and electricity from sunlight. The sparse research dollars went toward the long-term solution of nuclear power. Russell Train, who is administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, recalls:

"Time and again I tried to convince the Budget Bureau that R&D dollars were vital for coal gasification and so on. Time and again, they said: 'Forget it, the cost benefit isn't good.'"

As this indicates, our Government hasn't had a cohesive energy policy. It still doesn't.

The oil industry deserves plenty of blame. Most of it was mesmerized by that cheap Middle Eastern oil. "Be nice to the Arabs," it pleaded. But how nice? To the point of allowing Arab armies to sweep over a weakened Israel? And who was to be certain that a reasonable man like King Faisal might not one day



F THE RGY CRISIS

be replaced by a wild man like Colonel Qadaffi?

Oil expert M.A. Adelman claims that the multinational oil companies have become tax collectors for the Mideast producing nations.

The point is that the Arabs have every right to use their economic power. But remeber, their interests and ours will not always coincide.

At the same time, most majors also turned their backs on the potential of high-priced but domestic-made synthetic fuels. In all, the oil industry devotes a measly 0.07% of its $80 billion in sales to R&D--that's all R&D--plus only 2% to worldwide exploration and drilling



What's more, 23 of the largest oil companies own 10% of our coal reserves and 50% of our uranium--some of the very resources that could be converted to clean energy.

Chris Welles, author of a controversial book on oil shale, says: "For years the oil industry has retarded oil shale experimentation for fear that an independent and competitive energy industry would spring up and undercut the conventional oil business."

The oil companies' response is rather lame. In effect, they want profit guarantees before they'll search for oil at home. They are on solider ground when they blame some of the shortage on politicians and overzealous environmentalists.

Now we have a name for it: the energy crisis. Actually, it has been with us all along. It will remain a crisis as long as the U.S. is dependent on outside sources for something as vital as energy fuels.

Reprinted from FORBES magazine, December 1, 1973.

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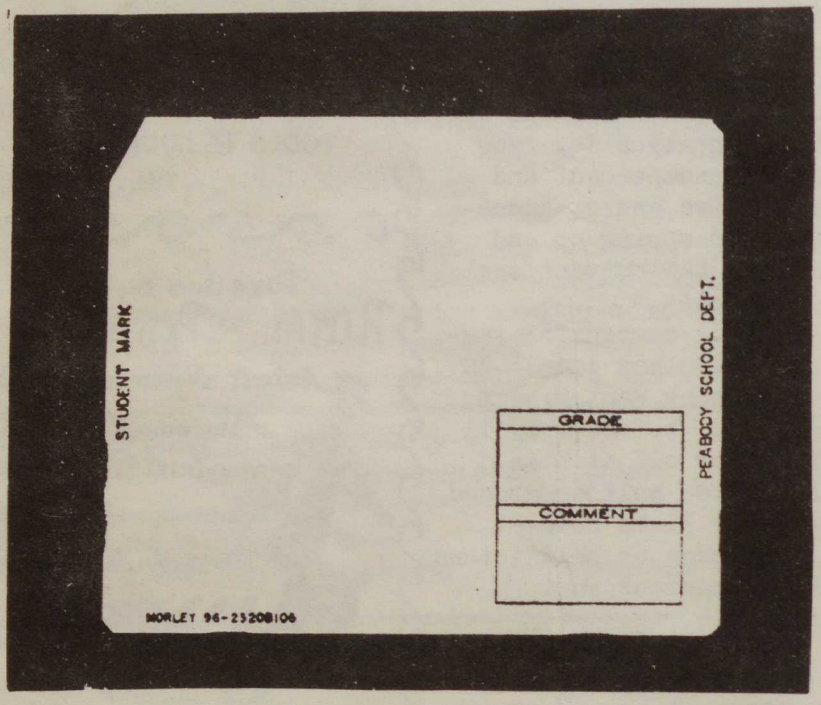
REPORT CARDS

P.V.M.H.S. report cards containing the first quarter marks are planned to be sent out before the New Year. The present delay will have no bearing on senior college applications.

Unlike previous years when the report cards were processed by a private firm from Worcester, they are being done by the data processing system at the Higgins Jr. High School.

One problem was that teachers were not familiar with report card processing. Also, the computer personnel incorrectly assumed that a correction reel had been used when it had not. This caused a delay in getting the processing cards to the teachers.

The processing of report cards is not expected to be completed quickly as the volume of work to be done at the Higgins is great. Along with the report cards from the high school, those from both junior high schools must be done also. But, the report cards will soon be distributed.



This is the computer card used to process teachers' grades for the report card.



FIND YOUR VOCATION

Sophomores, juniors and seniors- have you been confused as to which direction your future should be headed? Most high school students are. However, there is now a test available through guidance counselors called The Kuder Test. The result of the test is that you are shown your probable best suited vocation. All those interested in this aptitude vocation test should see their guidance counselors. At the moment this type of aptitude tests costs the individual money. Also the guidance department has no time allotted to give this test. With a show of student interest and parent concern the school committee could remedy both these problems facing the student who wishes to find his areas of occupational capability.

DEPT. HEAD RETIRES

After forty-four and a half years of teaching at Peabody High, Mr. William Bresnahan retires December 31, 1973.

As head of the social studies Department, he carried through many improvements. He expanded the economics course from a ½ year to a whole year. He also oriented the course toward consumer economics rather than the theory of economic principle. The Social Studies Department such as Latin American History, Contemporary Affairs, History of Essex County, Asian Studies and Psychology.

Mr. Bresnahan has no definite plans. After retirement he hopes to spend time on the Gulf of Mexico and in the deserts of Southwestern United States.

His parting message to the students: "I had many happy moments here. I have always had the highest regard for the students of the High School. I wish all of them well."



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NEWSPAPERS CAN FUEL YOU

(UPI)--David E. Lofgren, an environmental impact officer at the University of Utah, says he has found a way to convert newspapers into "logs" that burn cleanly and with as much heat as natural wood logs.

After two years of experimenting, Mr. Lo fgren says he has overcome such problems as flying ashes, smoldering, and annoying, popping noises.

Mr. Lofgren's method is to divide the paper into sections and fold them in half about a foot long and a half-inch thick. He soaks them overnight in a solution of water and detergent, then rolls the wet papers around a one-inch rod and squeezes out the excess water, smoothing the edges. He slides the rolls off the rods and stands them up to dry.

Mr. Lofgren says the average daily newspaper can produce two or three logs, while the larger Sunday editions will yield as many as seven.

"Not only are newspaper logs pound-for-pound about the same as wood as an efficient energy," said Mr. Lofgren, "but what other fuel is delivered to your doorstep each day?"

first amendment rights

(FPS) For the first time, a high school student was awarded money damages and court costs for the deprivation of his right of "symbolic speech." A federal judge in Ohio awarded $150 and costs to a student whose principal would not let him wear a black armband in school, despite the U.S. Supreme Court's mandate that such expression be permitted. According to the Ohio ACLU Foundation, which represented the student, the money damages were sought because the Supreme Court's ruling alone was not proving to be an effective deterrent to school officials' interference with First Ammendment rights. The judge also enjoined the school officials from "directly or indirectly interfering with the rights of free speech of any student."

MORE ON COMETS

Just what is a comet, anyway?....

Dr. Fred Whipple of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory claims that comets were created about the same time as the sun and planets some 4.6 billion years ago. Comets are also ancient wanderers of our universe, containing perhaps mysterious clues on the exact origins of our solar system.

Comets have changed little in structure because a comets' habitat has the constant temperature of -460 degrees, or absolute zero. No chemical reactions occur there(in deep space), so comets remain virtually the same shape.

When comets come near our sun, they are quite large, but as soon as the heat of our sun whittles away at the various elements in the comet, the comet becomes bright in color and virtually burns. By the time the comet has circled our sun, most of the elements within the comet are gone-burnt away-and thus return to deep outer space less than half the size it was before circling our sun.. ..our star.

When it completes it's predestined course in outer space, the comet will return once again, laden with collected space particles. Again it comes to burn,50-000,even 100,000 years later. Kouhoutek may visit our planet again in 50-000 years.

BANQUET PLANNED

Both girls' sports and boys' minor sports are questioning the possibilities of obtaining an All-Sports Banquet at the end of the year.

Mr. John Bezemes, athletic director at P.V.M.H.S. for the last two years, has been fighting for the banquet. He considers that all inter-scholastic sports deserve equal credit. Most of the athletes of the minor sports will probably be asked to canvass the city for funds. The banquet is planned to be held at the Holiday Inn on Route 1 in the Spring.

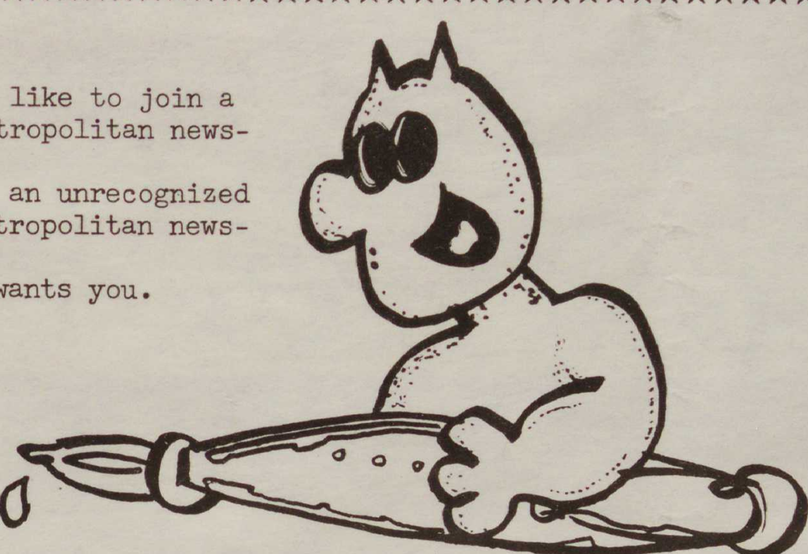
The major sports have banquets at the end of their respective seasons. The banquets are formed through Boosters who are alumni of the sport, or parents of the participents. The Boosters earn the money for jackets, trophies, scholarships, and other awards. Because minor sports are small in number, they do not have enough Boosters.

One plan that Mr. Bezemes considered was to hold all funds concerning the football banquet and other major sports banquets, and then contribute them to the All-Sports Banquet. This did not work out as the Football Banquet was held December 7 in the cafeteria.

At this time, the situation remains unresolved for obtaining a Sports Banquet for every athlete in the school who contributes his or her time and effort to represent Peabody in inter-scholastic sports.

★★★

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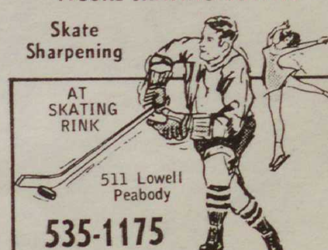


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